

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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BIB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04 /070 W

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R 031320Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9710

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0548

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CZ

SUBJ: ARNOLD'S CALL ON MFA SIXTH DEPT. HEAD ZANTOVSKY

REF: STATE 036033

1. DURING MARCH 2 CALL ON ZANTOVSKY (HEAD SIXTH DEPT. MFA) ACCOMPANYING PHILIP W. ARNOLD, DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, USIA/IEU, CHARGE MADE POINTS ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. POINTS FITTED WELL INTO TENOR OF DISCUSSION, WHICH HAD BEEN ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CONSIDERABLE MENTION OF CSCE. TENOR OF DISCUSSION WAS PLEASANT, AND ZANTOVSKY MADE NO EFFORT TO BE POLEMICAL, ALTHOUGH HE MADE SEVERAL FAVORITE CZECHOSLOVAK DEBATING POINTS. BOTH CHARGE AND ZANTOVSKY EMPHASIZED MUTUAL INTEREST IN IMPLEMENTING ALL PORTIONS OF FINAL ACT.

2. SINCE PREVIOUS DISCUSSION HAD DEALT SO LARGELY WITH  
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CLAIMS/GOLD QUESTION, CHARGE CITED THIS FIRST (PARA 3 REFTEL).

ZANTOVSKY MADE THE USUAL POINT IN REPLY, THAT WHILE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINAL ACT WAS NOT DEPENDENT UPON STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, THESE CERTAINLY AFFECTED THE ATMOSPHERE AND MADE IMPLEMENTATION EASIER.

3. ON ECONOMIC MATTERS (PARA 2 REFTTEL), ZANTOVSKY SAID THEY WERE "NOT ASKING FOR ANY FAVORITISM FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA," THEY MERELY WANTED TO REESTABLISH THE RECIPROCITY WHICH HAD EXISTED BETWEEN US AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA STEMMING FROM LATTER'S POSITION AS FOUNDING MEMBER OF GATT. THEY TOO WERE FOR FULL RECIPROCITY, AND FELT THIS WAS OBTAINABLE BY RETURNING TO EQUITABLE BILATERAL SITUATION THAT HAD FORMERLY EXISTED.

4. ZANTOVSKY'S COMMENT ON BROADCASTING (PARA 4 REFTTEL) WAS MILD, AND IN FACT--CONSIDERING THE RECENT STRIDENT CZECHOSLOVAK PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST RFE--DELIBERATELY NON-ARGUMENTATIVE. HE SAID FINAL ACT OBVIOUSLY MEANT THAT BROADCASTING SHOULD CAUSE NO HARM TO EITHER SIDE. CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS GLAD TO RECEIVE OBJECTIVE JOURNALISTS (HARKING BACK TO PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH ARNOLD REGARDING VISAS FOR JOURNALISTS). SOME PRECAUTIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN AGAINST MISUSE (PRESUMABLY OF BROADCASTING, SPECIFICALLY BY RFE) IN THE COLD WAR PERIOD AND SOME MATTERS WERE STILL PAINFUL. (COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW IF DEPARTMENT WILL AGREE WITH US THAT THIS IS MILD AND NON-ARGUMENTATIVE, BUT IN PRESENT DOMESTIC CONTEXT HERE IT APPEARS THAT WAY TO THE EMBASSY. DURING THE WHOLE AFFAIR OF "CAPTAIN MINARIK" AND THE ATTACKS ON RFE LATELY, MFA SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WALKING ON EGGS TO AVOID LETTING THE CAMPAIGN BECOME A BILATERAL POLITICAL ISSUE.)

5. FINALLY, ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES (PARA 5 REFTTEL), ZANTOVSKY REPLIED THAT IN SOME OF THESE MATTERS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK STATE WAS INVOLVED. ON OCCASION, OF COURSE, OUR INTERESTS OVERLAPPED AND WE COULD MOVE AHEAD, FOR EXAMPLE IN REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES: HE WAS PLEASED TO SEE THE PROGRESS MADE IN THIS AREA LATELY. WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE CZECHS UNDERSTOOD "HUMANITY," AND THEY WERE DOING HUMANITARIAN ACTS ALL THE TIME--MANY OF WHICH GOT NO PUBLICITY-- IN UNITING FAMILIES AND THE LIKE. HE MUST ADD, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS NOT ALWAYS A SIGN OF "HUMANITY" TO LEAVE SMALL CHILDREN BEHIND WHILE LEAVING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE COUNTRY, THEN ASKING FOR THEM YEARS LATER. IT WAS ALSO DISCOURAGING WHEN CASES OCCURRED PREVENTING SMALL CHILDREN FROM LEAVING THE US WITH THEIR PARENTS, AS IN THE ORANGE COUNTY (GABRIEL CHILDREN) CASE.

6. ZANTOVSKY ENDED ON HAPPIER NOTE BY SAYING IN GENERAL HE FELT OUR VIEWS WERE VERY CLOSE ON FINAL ACT IMPLEMENTATION AND WE WOULD CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER ON IT. PERRY

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